IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A silicon ~~Silicon~~ dioxide powder, ~~characterised in that it is a silicon dioxide powder~~ produced by flame hydrolysis, and displaying a hydroxyl group density of 2.5 to 4.7 $OH/nm^2$.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The silicon ~~Silicon~~ dioxide powder according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the silicon dioxide powder is a doped silicon dioxide powder.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The silicon ~~Silicon~~ dioxide powder according to claim 1 ~~claims 1 or 2~~, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the silicon dioxide powder is a silicon-metal mixed oxide powder, containing a ~~the~~ content of silicon dioxide of ~~in which is~~ at least 60%.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The silicon ~~Silicon~~ dioxide powder according to claim 1 ~~claims 1 to 3~~, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the hydroxyl group density in the silicon dioxide powder is between 3 and 4 $OH/nm^2$.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The silicon ~~Silicon~~ dioxide powder according to claim 1 ~~claims 1 to 4~~, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the BET surface area of the silicon dioxide powder is between 5 and 600 $m^2/g$.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ for producing the silicon dioxide powder according to claim 1, comprising, treating ~~claims 1 to 5~~, ~~characterised in that~~ a silicon dioxide powder, produced by a flame hydrolysis process and having a hydroxyl group density of less than 2.5 $OH/nm^2$, ~~is treated~~ at temperatures of 40 to 700°C, under acid conditions, and

for reaction times of 5 minutes to 20 hours, to form a reaction mixture, and ~~is~~ subsequently separating the treated powder ~~separated~~ from the reaction mixture.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process ~~Process for producing the silicon dioxide powder~~ according to claim 6, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ inorganic or organic acids are used for the treatment.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An aqueous ~~Aqueous~~ dispersion, comprising the ~~containing~~ silicon dioxide powder according to claim 1, and water ~~claims 1 to 5~~.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The aqueous ~~Aqueous~~ dispersion according to claim 8, wherein said dispersion, ~~characterised in that~~ over a period of 6 months, ~~it~~ does not thicken further and forms no sediment.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The aqueous ~~Aqueous~~ dispersion according to claim 8 ~~claims 8 or 9~~, wherein said dispersion has a ~~characterised in that its~~ content of silicon dioxide powder ~~is~~ between 10 and 70 wt.%.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The aqueous ~~Aqueous~~ dispersion according to claim 8 ~~claims 8 to 10~~, wherein said dispersion has a ~~characterised in that its~~ pH ~~is~~ between 3 and 12.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The aqueous dispersion ~~Aqueous~~ dispersion according to claim 8 ~~claims 8 to 11~~, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the average aggregate diameter in the dispersion is less than 200 nm.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The aqueous ~~Aqueous~~ dispersion according to claim 8 ~~claims 8 to 12~~, wherein said dispersion ~~characterised in that it~~ contains oxidising agents, corrosion inhibitors and/or surface-active substances.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ for producing the dispersion according to claim 8 ~~claims 8 to 13~~, comprising, incorporating ~~characterised in that~~ a silicon dioxide powder, having a hydroxyl group density of 2.5 to 4.7 $OH/nm^2$, obtained from a silicon dioxide powder produced by flame hydrolysis, ~~is incorporated~~ into an aqueous solution by means of a dispersing device.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method of producing a transparent coating, comprising, applying the dispersion of claim 8 to a substrate ~~Use of the aqueous dispersion according to claims 8 to 13 for the production of transparent coatings, for chemical mechanical polishing, for glass production, sol-gel glass articles, for example overcladdings, crucibles, accessories, coatings, sintered materials, inkjet papers~~.

Claim 16 (New): A method of producing a chemical mechanical polishing, comprising, contacting the dispersion of claim 8 with one or more polishing additives.

Claim 17 (New): A method of producing glass, comprising, contacting the dispersion of claim 8 with one or more additives for glass manufacturing.

Claim 18 (New): A method of producing a sol-gel glass article, comprising, contacting the dispersion of claim 8 with one or more additives for sol-gel glass article manufacturing.